Amendments To The Claims:

1-39 (Canceled).

40. (**Currently Amended**) A process comprising the steps of:

a) providing a precursor for an implantable medical device, at least a portion of the precursor made of a shape memory material, the shape memory material having a receptacle for receiving a marker therein, the shape memory material having an austenitic and a martensitic phase, the receptacle having a first shape when there is no marker therein and the shape memory material is in the martensitic phase;

b) enlarging the receptacle while the shape memory material is in the martensitic phase, ~~the receptacle having a shape, wherein the shape of the receptacle is maintained during the enlarging step~~;

c) subsequently inserting a marker in the receptacle while the shape memory material is in the martensitic phase, the receptacle having a second shape after the marker is inserted into the receptacle, the second shape the same as the first shape; and thereafter

d) transforming the precursor to the austenitic phase.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the precursor is a stent precursor.

43. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the precursor is chosen from the group consisting of a stent-graft precursor, a distal protection filter precursor, an embolic coil precursor, a graft precursor, and a vena cava filter precursor.

44. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, the precursor having a plurality of receptacles for receiving a plurality of markers.

45. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 44, wherein heat is applied to the plurality of receptacles prior to transforming the precursor to the austenitic phase.

46. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, further comprising the step of post-processing the precursor to form an implantable device suitable for implantation in the body.

47. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 46, wherein the post-processing includes the step of polishing the precursor.

48. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 46, where the implantable device is a stent.

49. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 46, wherein the implantable device is chosen from the group consisting of a stent-graft, a distal protection filter, an embolic coil, a graft, and a vena cava filter.

50. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the shape memory material is nitinol.

51. (**Currently Amended**) The process of claim 41, wherein the shape memory material is ~~nitinol~~ polymeric.

52. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent, the stent having a first end and a second end, the receptacle being positioned at the first end of the stent.

53. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent, the stent having a first end and a second end, the receptacle being positioned between the first end of the stent and the second end of the stent.

54. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the implantable medical device is formed prior to the receptacle being enlarged.

55. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the implantable medical device and

the receptacle are made from different materials.

56. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the marker is radiopaque.

57. (**Currently Amended**) A process comprising the steps of:

a) providing a precursor for an implantable medical device, at least a portion of the device made of a shape memory material, the shape memory material having a receptacle for receiving a marker therein, the shape memory material having at least a first phase and a second phase, the receptacle having a first shape in the first phase, the receptacle having a second shape in the second phase, the first shape the same as the second shape;

b) causing the shape memory material to transition from the first phase to the second phase;

c) enlarging the receptacle while the shape memory material is in the second phase~~, the receptacle having a shape, wherein the shape of the receptacle is maintained during the enlarging step~~;

d) subsequently inserting a marker in the receptacle while the shape memory material is in the second phase; and thereafter

e) transforming the precursor to the first phase.

58. (**Cancelled**)

59. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the shape memory material is a metal.

60. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the metal is nitinol and the first phase is an austenitic phase and the second phase is a martensitic phase.

61. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the shape memory material is polymeric.

62. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the precursor is a stent precursor.

63. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the precursor is chosen from the group consisting of a stent-graft precursor, a distal protection filter precursor, an embolic coil precursor, a graft precursor, and a vena cava filter precursor.

64. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 62, the precursor having a plurality of receptacles for receiving a plurality of markers.

65. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 64, wherein heat is applied to the plurality of receptacles prior to transforming the precursor to the austenitic phase.

66. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, further comprising the step of post-processing the precursor to form an implantable device suitable for implantation in the body.

67. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 66, wherein the post-processing includes the step of polishing the precursor.

68. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 66, where the implantable device is a stent.

69. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 66, wherein the implantable device is chosen from the group consisting of a stent-graft, a distal protection filter, an embolic coil, a graft, and a vena cava filter.

70. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the shape memory material is nitinol.

71. (**Currently Amended**) The process of claim 62, wherein the shape memory material is ~~nitinol~~ polymeric.

72. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent, the stent having a first end and a second end, the receptacle being positioned at the first end of the stent.

73. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent, the stent having a first end and a second end, the receptacle being positioned between the first end of the stent and the second end of the stent.

74. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the implantable medical device is formed prior to the receptacle being enlarged.

75. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the implantable medical device and the receptacle are made from different materials.

76. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 58, wherein the marker is radiopaque.

77. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the marker does not comprise material in common with the shape memory material of the implantable medical device and wherein the marker is in direct contact with the shape memory material of the implantable medical device after the precursor is transformed to the austenitic phase.

78. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 76, wherein the marker does not comprise material in common with the shape memory material of the implantable medical device and wherein the marker is in direct contact with the shape memory material of the implantable medical device after the precursor is transformed to the first phase.

79. (**Currently Amended**) The process of claim 41, wherein the <u>first and second shapes</u> [[shape]] of the receptacle [[is]] <u>are</u> substantially circular.

80. (**Currently Amended**) The process of claim 58, wherein the <u>first and second shapes</u>

[[shape]] of the receptacle [[is]] arc substantially circular.